

Message Text

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42

ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 SWF-02 OIC-04 HEW-08

SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 EB-11 AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02

DRC-01 /185 W

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R 161300Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6315

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 7913

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON/SPOP/UNWPC

SUBJ: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

REF: ISLAMABAD 7454

1. WHILE PAKISTAN DELEGATION TO WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE STILL NOT OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED AS OF COB AUGUST 16, WE ADVISED THAT DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY FEDERAL MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE SHAIKH MOHAMMAD RASHID, WITH BEGUM NUSRAT BHUTTO, WIFE OF PRIME MINISTER ZULFIQAR ALI BHUTTO, ATTENDING AS ALTERNATE LEADER OF DELEGATION.

2. UNDERSTAND RASHID PLANS REMAIN BUCHAREST UNTIL AUGUST 24 AND THEN PROCEED TO BULGARIA ON OTHER BUSINESS. MRS. BHUTTO WILL HEAD PAKISTAN DELEGATION FOR BALANCE OF CONFERENCE.

3. SHAIKH RASHID, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTY IN PUNJAB PROVINCE, IS A PARTY STALWART OF PEASANT BACKGROUND WHO HAS BEEN FEDERAL MINISTER OF HEALTH SINCE THE PEOPLE'S PARTY CAME TO POWER MORE THAN TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO. HE IS AN AUTHENTIC RURAL LEADER WHO HAS RISEN TO THE TOP AND STILL RETAINS A DEEP AND ACTIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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INTEREST IN THE BASIC PROBLEMS OF THE RURAL MASSES. JUST

A MONTH AGO, FOR EXAMPLE, HE SPENT SOME DAYS IN SWAT ADJUDICATING LAND TENURE SETTLEMENTS IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF PAKISTAN'S AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION. AS MINISTER OF HEALTH, HE HAS PRESIDED OVER A POPULATION EFFORT THAT HAS SEEN EXPENDITURES RISE FROM \$2.5 MILLION IN FY 1973 TO \$ 10 MILLION IN FY 1974 TO \$ 15 MILLION IN FY 1975. THIS SPECIAL EFFORT IN POPULATION REPRESENTS PERHAPS THE MOST STRIKING SUCCESS OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY SINCE THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT CAME TO POWER.

4. MRS. BHUTTO, WHO HAS EARNED WIDE RESPECT AMONG THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN, HAS MADE A REPUTATION IN HER OWN RIGHT AS A SPEAKER AND A PERSON WITH STRONG ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY WHO HAS BEEN VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN SOCIAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES, WITH AN INCREASING INTEREST IN POPULATION MATTERS. HER SELECTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BUCHAREST CONFERENCE SIGNALS A DEEPENING OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ALREADY STRONG SUPPORT FOR POPULATION PLANNING. MRS. BHUTTO KNOWS THE UNITED STATES WELL, HAVING VISITED OFTEN, INCLUDING VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH PLACING HER CHILDREN IN HARVARD AND RADCLIFFE.

5. WILL CABLE NAMES OF FULL DELEGATION AS SOON AS FORMAL SELECTION KNOWN.
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